

## **Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee**

**Thursday, July 29, 2004**

Chair Stamsta called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Present:** Supervisors Duane Stamsta (Chair), Andy Kallin, Bill Kramer, Jim Jeskewitz, and Sandy Wolff. Joe Griffin arrived at 1:02 p.m. **Absent:** Hank Carlson.

**Also Present:** Legislative Policy Advisor Mark Mader, Employment Services Manager Sue Zastrow, Clinical Services Manager Mike DeMares, Mental Health Center Administrator Michele Cusatis, Administrative Services Manager Russ Kutz, Deputy Health & Human Services Director Don Maurer, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Senior Financial Analyst Andy Thelke, Registered Nurse Linda Brock, Case Manager Pam Groh, and Adolescent & Family Services Manager Pat Voss.

### **Approve Minutes of 7/8/04**

**MOTION:** Kallin moved, second by Kramer to approve the minutes of July 8. Motion carried 5-0.

Griffin arrived at 1:02 p.m.

### **Read Correspondence**

Stamsta advised of a letter he received dated July 22<sup>nd</sup> to Waukesha County Senior Services Director Cathy Bellovary from State Department of Health & Family Services Administrator Sinikka Santala commending the department for outstanding volunteer and community support.

### **Announcements**

Kallin invited committee members to the American Cancer Walk on August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at Waukesha West High School.

### **Schedule Next Meeting Dates**

August 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Meeting Approvals**

**MOTION:** Griffin moved, second by Kallin to approve mileage for any committee members wanting to attend the Finance Committee's budget deliberations in October. Motion carried 6-0.

### **Ordinance 159-O-041: Create Full-Time Psychiatrist Position and Abolish Part-Time Psychiatrist Position**

Zastrow discussed the ordinance as outlined and noted that psychiatrists are very difficult to recruit for and contracted psychiatrists are even more expensive. DeMares said they have been unsuccessful trying to fill a part-time psychiatrist position that has been vacant for a number of months even though they have advertised the vacancy through multiple sources. They did, however, receive a number of applicants who were willing to consider the position if it was full-time. With this full-time County position, they'll reduce the contracted psychiatrists' hours and

staff anticipate this will save about \$15,000 overall next year. To answer Kramer's question with regards to County Executive Finley not wanting to fund any new positions, DeMares said Finley is in favor of this ordinance. He understands the problems staff have encountered trying to fill these positions in the past.

MOTION: Wolff moved, second by Griffin to approve ordinance 159-O-041. Motion carried 6-0.

### **Review of the Mental Health Clinic Medication Assistance Service**

DeMares distributed copies of "Pharmaceutical Support Services." DeMares said this program provides for needed psychotropic medication for clients of Waukesha County who have difficulty filling their prescriptions through their own resources. DeMares said medication bills for some clients can be as high as \$800 a month. Staff will work with the clients to determine insurance benefits or if they're eligible for any other types of benefits. Staff also have the ability to give clients samples when they're available and whenever possible they take advantage of the pharmaceutical companies low-income indigency programs which offer discounted drugs.

DeMares and staff went on to review service components including eligibility determination, disability benefit review and assistance, supportive counseling and case management, pharmaceutical assistance program support, pharmaceutical sampling and registered nurse case management, and co-pay assistance. Groh explained eligibility standards and the various drug company-sponsored programs in detail.

DeMares said their 2004 budget for pharmacy-filled medications is about \$540,000. This budget has been steadily increasing every year and they have made great strides in generating savings due to the Medication Assistance Service. Estimated County savings could reach about \$95,000 this year and these savings will be reflected in next year's budget.

### **Delinquency Recidivism and Risk Assessment**

Voss said in 1993, the Waukesha County Health & Human Services Department along with five other Wisconsin counties piloted the standardized delinquency risk and needs assessment tool. The purpose of the tool is to assess the likelihood an offender will re-offend. It was developed by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency in 1986 and is based on research from outcomes of actual cases. Voss said while the risk assessment is not foolproof, it can aid in estimating an individual's future behavior. It allows staff to draw on past experiences to make decisions on the extent of services and also recommendations to the courts.

In 1996 the NCCD and the State of Wisconsin performed a revalidation study by tracking recidivism for 881 cases. The results of the study determined that this tool was in fact valid and it gave staff a good picture as to which groups of individuals are more likely to offend.

Voss distributed information on recidivism tracking for Waukesha County. In 2003, there were 223 cases and of those, 49 or 22% re-offended while under court supervision. From 1998 through 2002, these figures totaled 26%, 26%, 22%, 19%, and 21%, respectively. The 2003 delinquency risk assessment with regards to risk level breakdown and the chances of re-

offending concluded that 28% were high, 9% very high, 26% moderate, and 37% low. Voss said offenders are periodically re-evaluated to determine if services should be modified.

**Chair's Executive Committee Report of 7/12/04**

Stamsta said the Executive Committee, at their last meeting meeting, discussed and considered the ordinances and resolutions that were included in the last yellow packet. They also heard an internal audit report on the Engineering Services Division – capital projects. No problems were detected by audit staff.

MOTION: Kramer moved, second by Jeskewitz to adjourn at 2:57 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew J. Kallin  
Secretary